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The Mexican Year Book, 1908. Comprising Historical, Statistical and Fiscal Information. Compiled from Official and Other Records. Issued under the Auspices of the Department of Finance. First year of Publication. To be Continued Annually. (London: McCorquodale and Company, Ltd.; New York and Paris: Brentano, 1908. Pp. viii, 1034. \$6.25.)

This is a modernized *Guía Oficial*, done into English, a "statistical abstract" enriched with descriptive matter, a very handy and interesting reference book.

No better way occurs to me for giving an idea of the book than to run through its contents. The first thirteen pages cover the physical and general characteristics of Mexico, its population and area. Then come nearly one hundred pages of an historical summary. Fifteen pages are devoted to the Constitution, the status of foreigners, the organization of the government, and defense. Ten pages deal with the relations with foreign nations. Three of the recent messages of President Diaz are given in full, which are interesting as showing the present problems of government. Fifty pages are given to Finance Minister Limantour's statement of the finances and twelve to the history and present status of Mexico's public debt. Banks and banking receive descriptions in some forty pages. Foreign Trade receives sixteen pages of tables. Transportation and communication with full description of railway lines, steamship lines and all their connections, together with statistics and many excellent maps, receive attention in about one hundred and ten pages. The resources, such as agriculture, forestry, mining, manufacturing, etc., receive one hundred and twenty-five pages. Notable among much else that is interesting is the description, with maps, of the electric power lines and systems. Then follow fifty pages devoted to the federal district, education therein and the states and territories of the federation, giving area, population, political organization, public lighting, water supply, sanitation and drainage, public worship, charities and many other institutions.

The Appendices, hardly distinguishable from the other parts of the book by any differentiation of material, contain a history of banking (30 pp.); the railroad law; Mexican railroad policy (26 pp.); harbor and port dues; maritime law; company law; the new life

insurance act; the patent law and rules of practice; the trade mark law; the custom-house tariff and export duties, the full schedules thereof with rulings and applications (a sort of Mexican Vandergrif's hand book); the stamp revenue law and stamp taxes; and weights, measures and currencies.

The work is embellished with a fine portrait of President Diaz, twenty-three maps, and a number of charts. It has an excellent index. It is published, says the preface, "to supply the need for some reliable and up-to-date work of reference," a want felt by offices maintained for some time past by the Government of the Republic in London, New York and other cities. The hope is expressed that the "work will enable the political student of our time to understand approximately the great task to which the enlightened ruler of modern Mexico has devoted himself, and to gauge in some degree the measure of his success," also that "the general reader may find some interest in the summary account of the phenomenal rise of a great nation on the ruins of an ancient civilization in the West." It appears from an examination of the book that both of these hopes may be realized. Instead of detracting in any way from the value of the book the human element introduced among the otherwise dry statistics and descriptive matter by the laudation of Mexico's great president lends a peculiar, if unusual, interest.

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Industrial Insurance in the United States. By CHARLES RICHMOND HENDERSON, Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1909. Pp. 429. \$2 net.)

This book is a most important handbook and guide to the legislator looking for comprehensive plans of industrial insurance. Not merely does it give a sketch of the progressive legislation of other countries, it covers the entire ground of all that is now being done in the United States by different agencies. This knowledge is of the greatest importance for any scheme of constructive legislation, since such a scheme must build upon what already exists, and a compulsory scheme imposed by the state must correlate